

The Autocruisers

Newsletter No.27
April 2004

Game for a Laugh!



Well you had to be if you wanted to attend the Wernham Farm rally in January. On arrival at the site it was found to be too wet for us to rally. Frantic phone calls ensued and an alternative site was found at Moreton-in-Marsh. The farmer was asked if he would notify any members arriving at his farm of this fact. Unfortunately he wasn't very helpful and told people that we were rallying in the first place that came to mind. Thankfully all but three vans turned up at Moreton and a good rally was had by all.



Our Rally Officer has now put into place a new system of booking for rallies. He will give you 12 dates and 12 rally sites to cover the year and there will be a prize to anyone who arrives at the correct site on the correct day!!!!

Seriously folks, we had a great deal of trouble contacting some members, who shall remain nameless, Hells Angels comes to mind though, who travel with mobile phones – turned off! May we ask you to travel to rallies with your phones turned on so that if this ever happens again we can contact you and let you know of the alternative venue.



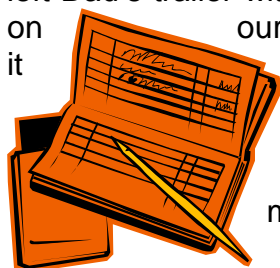
Our first rally with the Autocruisers

by Gerry & Pauline King



Well – we asked Sheila if we could join the Autocruisers so that we could have an attempt at using Dad’s motorhome – she said yes, we could be number 50 also. What we didn’t know until we received our ‘disc’ was that we would be ‘50 JNR’!

We had left the motorhome at a site near Pewsey in Wiltshire in readiness for the rally at Clench Common in January, we stayed with friends in Pewsey for a couple of days, went and collected the motorhome (in pouring rain) and set off to the farm site where the rally was to be held. We noticed Joe was parked further along the road after the turn up to the farm, how strange, we thought! Well of course the farmyard was horrific, rather wet! Luckily there was someone about and they were able to tell us the rally had been moved to Moreton! We had to go back to Pewsey as we had left Dad’s trailer with friends so that we could collect it on Sunday but as Moreton is on our way back we had to retrieve it. Off we went to Moreton; at least it stopped pouring with rain on the way. Eventually, after contacting Sheila a couple of times to find the site, we arrived at the campsite. We had (so we thought) joined the Caravan Club in readiness for future forays but no there was no record of our membership and the only thing was to join again and recover one of the payments. At last they let us in! Sheila came to help us and took us back to where the other early birds were parked. We set up camp with much assistance – Lance said “well we used to do all this for Bernie, nothing’s changed”!



The rain came and went with monotonous regularity but we managed to get into the village a couple of times and enjoyed a meal and a game of skittles on the Saturday evening. We chatted with many other Autocruisers, looked in other motorhomes (they were super) and learned a lot. We were very grateful for all the help and advice. Unfortunately the central heating did not work (and after a day away to be repaired still does not) but luckily we had a hook up and have a fan heater so we were OK.



Unfortunately we cannot join you again at Ancaster – grandparent duties call as it is half term but we have already sent of our booking for Morecambe and, guess what, we have booked a few days at a nearby site!

We left (last of all) on the Sunday in glorious sunshine and got back in no time having had a really good weekend – here’s to next time.

Chairman's Rantings

I start these rantings on a sad note as Geoffrey Butler has died. Our most sincere condolences go out to his wife Anthea and family.

On a lighter note it is nice to see that the rally numbers are up again for this year even though we had a bad start with the first rally due to the 'field' being water logged. The venue was changed very quickly and, under the circumstances, it was great to see so many turn up at Morton-in-Marsh (16 vans) while at Ancaster 30 vans turned up, and judging by the booking slips in so far for the rest of the year the bookings are up.

The rally at Beamish promises to be very good with a medieval banquet arranged for the Saturday evening. Elizabethan costume (Elizabeth the first, not the present one) is optional but it would be nice if as many people could come dressed up even if to only show the other 'peasants' who will be there, that the Autocruisers know how to enjoy themselves.

This year we are returning to Selby for the Christmas rally. We are on the look out for a site, in the midlands, that could take 50 vans and has a place where at least a hundred people can meet, preferably on site, at a reasonable cost. If you know of such a place please contact the Rally Officer or a committee member with details.

Well that's all from me for now, but I will leave you with this.

An old couple go to the doctor for their yearly physicals. One at a time, the doctor brings them into the examination room, starting with the husband. "Well, Mr. Smith, you're in great shape for a man your age," says the doctor. The man replies, "Well doc, I don't drink, I don't smoke, and the good Lord looks out for me." "What do you mean?" asks the doctor. The old man says, "For instance, last night in the middle of the night, I had to get up to go to the bathroom -- and the good Lord turned on the light for me so I wouldn't fall down." "That's nice," said the doctor, confused. "Please send your wife in now." The wife comes in and the doctor says, "Mrs. Smith, you're in great shape for a woman your age." She then says, "Well, doc, I don't drink, I don't smoke...." The doctor interrupts, "And the good Lord looks after you, right?" The woman is confused and says, "What are you talking about?" The doctor explains, "Your husband was just telling me the same thing. He said that the good Lord looks after him. Like last night when he had to go to the bathroom, the good Lord turned the light on for him." "Damn!" she yelled. "So he's peeing in the refrigerator again!"

Happy rallying,



Rally News

**Please note that we can only accept cheques made payable to
The Autocruisers.**



Bourton Rovers Football Club Thursday 13th – Sunday 16th May

7 Lamberts Field
Bourton on the Water
GL54 2EH
01451 822060

Site fees: £5.70 no hook-up.

Friday night: Punch bowl and faith supper

Saturday night evening meal – please return your menu choices to Ken which you will have received on booking this rally.

If you have not already booked please do so now.

Beamish Rally Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th June

Beamish, County Durham
DH9 0RG
0191 370 4000



Site fees: £6.50 no hook up. Two day pass into Museum £9

Friday punch bowl followed by Fish & Chip supper. Saturday evening – Elizabethan Banquet at Lumley Castle £28.50 per head. A bus has been arranged to take us to and bring us back from the Castle.

Rally News

WEDDING RALLY **Thursday 1ST – Sunday 4th July**

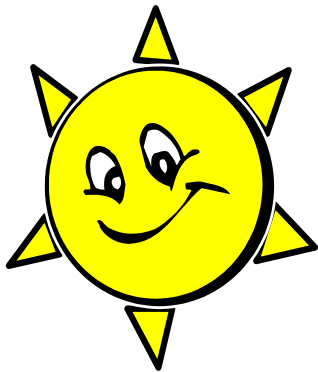
Jinglers Caravan Park
Belper Road (A517)
Bradley, Ashbourne
Derbyshire DE6 3EN
01335 370855



Site fees: £10 per night with hook up.
£9 per night with no hook up

This rally has a limit of 39 pitches, so first come, first served. Peter Lockwood will be 'marrying' Anna & Richard. All ralliers will be requested to bring certain food items for the wedding buffet. Invitations will be sent out on receipt of your booking forms. Friday evening punch bowl, no faith supper. Saturday evening - Wedding buffet, live music and bar.

This rally carries a £5 per person non refundable deposit.



AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY **Thursday 26th – Monday 30th August**

Well Park Caravans
New Hedges
Tenby
Pembrokeshire
SA70 8TL
01834742179

Site fees: £5 per night with no hook up

Friday night: Punch bowl and faith supper

Saturday night: Meal to be arranged

Sunday: Barbecue

Tenby has the most wonderful Ice Cream Parlour and it is not to be missed!

Please send £5 per person deposit when booking this rally

Booking forms for all 2004 rallies will be found at the end of this newsletter.

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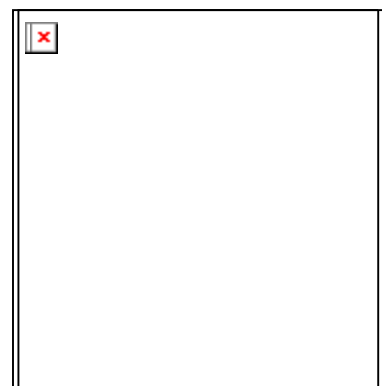
www.westcountry-motorhomes.co.uk



To all the Autocruisers

A Thank you from Gerry King and family

We have had a letter from the British Heart Foundation thanking us for a donation of £447 in memory of Dad. Obviously most of this came from the Autocruisers and we are very grateful to you all, we understand the donation will be put to good use in the local area.





On the first day God created the cow. God said, 'You must go to the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of sixty years.'

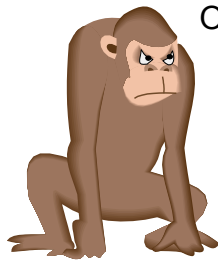
The cow said, 'That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. Let me have twenty years and I'll give back the other forty.'

And God agreed.

On the second day, God created the dog. God said, 'Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. I will give you a life span of twenty years.'



The dog said, 'That's too long to be barking. Give me ten years and I'll give back the other ten.' So God agreed.

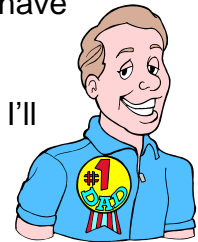


On the third day God created the monkey. God said, 'Entertain people, do monkey tricks, make them laugh. I'll give you a twenty year life span'.

Monkey said, 'How boring, monkey tricks for twenty years? I don't think so. Dog gave back ten, so that's what I'll do too, O.K.?' And God agreed again.

On the fourth day God created man. God said, 'Eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy. Do nothing. Just enjoy, enjoy. I'll give you twenty years.'

Man said, 'What? Only twenty years? No way man. Tell you what, I'll take my twenty and the forty the cow gave back and the ten the dog gave back and the ten the monkey gave back. That makes eighty, O.K.?' God replied 'O.K you've got a deal.'



So that is why for the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy and do nothing;

For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family;



For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain our grandchildren.

And for the last ten years we sit in front of the house and bark at everybody.



RALLY DATES FOR 2004



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| January 22-25th | Clench Common Marlborough | £4.50 per night |
| February 18th-21st | Woodland Water, Ancaster | £8 per night electric £6 without |
| March 18th-21st | Venture Caravan Park Morecambe | £7 per night electric £6 without |
| April 8th-12th Easter | Kings Lynn Caravan & Camping North Runcton | £7 per night electric £5 without |
| May 13th-16th | Bourton Football Club Bourton on the Water | £5.58 per night no electric |
| June 10th-13th | Beamish Museum County Durham | £7 per night no electric |
| July 1st-4th | Jinglers Caravan Park Bradley, Ashbourne | £10 per night electric £9 without |
| August 26th-30th Bank Holiday | Well Park Tenby, Wales | £5 per night no electric |
| September 2nd – 6th | Factory Weekend | £10 per person |
| 30th September – 3rd October | The Haven Arms Hedon | £10 per person |
| November 4th-7th | Chester Southerly Touring Park | £9.50 per night electric £7.50 without |
| December 16^h – 19th | The Ranch Caravan Park Selby | £8 per night electric |

Would you please ensure that all booking forms are returned to The Rally Officer. With effect from the June rally we shall require a £5 per person deposit for each and every rally. This is to ensure that if we have any costs to be met, in the event of cancellation, there are funds available.



*Strange but True
Articles supplied by
Peter Lockwood*



The Boy Who Broke into Buckingham
Palace.

**How did the ragged boy get into the palace and
what did he do there?**

'Hey, you! What are you doing in here?' The porter's indignant shout echoed through the marble hall as the boy, frightened out of his wits at being spotted, leapt to his feet and ran for his life. 'Come back here, you little rascal,' commanded the porter, making a vain attempt to catch the urchin as he scuttled past. But young Edward Jones had no intention of being caught so easily and, dodging the porter's flailing arms, he darted down the nearest corridor. The chase was on. Through plushly carpeted passages, grand banqueting halls and state rooms the boy tried vainly to avoid capture, but no matter what he did he could not shake off the porter who was never far behind. Queen Victoria would certainly not have been amused if she had been aware of the hullabaloo in Buckingham Palace on that crisp winter's morning in 1838. Eventually the chase entered the garden - a mistake on Edward's part, for there were several sentries at the gate and he was very soon captured by one of them.



At first Edward claimed that his name was Edward Cotton and that he was the son of a respectable trader in Hertfordshire. He said that he had been taken to the palace by a strange man and that he had lived there for twelve months, scrounging scraps from the kitchen when the servants were asleep, without anyone being aware of his existence. 'On several occasions I have hidden in the room whilst Her Majesty discussed affairs of state with the British Prime Minister,' he boasted. But at his trial on 28th December the truth was revealed. Edward's surname was not Cotton but Jones, and his father was a tailor in Westminster, London. Edward had confided in a builder for whom he worked that he had often wished he could see inside Buckingham Palace, and early in the morning of 14th December he succeeded in slipping past the guards and entering the building.

The splendour of the furnishings, suits of armour, paintings and glittering chandeliers proved so impressive that he had wandered from room to room in a permanent daze, each door he opened revealing even greater wonders.



The sound of approaching footsteps had brought him back to earth with a bang. He was in one of the bedrooms and there was no escape. Only one suitable hiding place was available - the chimney. He dashed across the room and scrambled up it as fast as he could. But the chimney was smaller than he thought. He could not get up it. Covered from head to toe with soot, he ran across the bed, through the door, and from bedroom to, bedroom leaving a black trail which the palace porter, whose footsteps had startled Edward into panic, found very easy to follow.

After his capture Edward was committed to trial at Westminster Sessions. Luckily for him, his counsel made a great play of the amusing aspects of the case and the jury, wiping tears of laughter' from their eyes, returned a verdict of 'Not guilty'. And so Edward Jones got away Scot free. But that was not the last that the world was to hear of this unusual boy.



Two years later, on 2nd December 1840, the whole of Buckingham Palace was awakened when an intruder was apprehended under a settee in the Queen's dressing room. The servant who found him described the burglar as 'a dirty, ill-looking fellow, who was immediately dragged from his hiding place and given into custody'. Yes, it was Edward Jones up to his tricks again. On this occasion he had actually managed to sit on the royal throne, but when he was tried in court he did not fare as well as he had done previously and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment as a rogue and a vagabond.

The palace guards were strengthened but, on 15th March, 1841, a police sergeant checking the Grand Hall at 1 a.m. saw a face peer through the glass door - it was Edward Jones! Once again he received three months imprisonment, this time with hard labour, for entering the palace illegally. Nothing more was heard of Edward Jones, and no one knows what became of him.



Woodland Waters in February or Whatever Happened to Poppy

Travelling to Ancaster on Thursday we wondered what the weather would have in store for us. Would we have sun, rain, sleet or snow? We would have to wait and see.

We arrived on site in the early afternoon and found John and Carol Jenkinson with Saffie, and a host of Autocruisers running round searching in vain for a lost dog. New members Peter & Jean Burraway, on their first rally with us, had lost their dog! Everyone was most concerned and a search of the campsite was being conducted as we arrived. Carol and Saffie walked miles! The search continued far and wide and reception and the restaurant on site were informed as were the passing caravanners. What a way to start your association with The Autocruisers! Apparently as they were busy chocking up the van and seeing to everything else, little Poppy, a golden haired spaniel, had somehow or other got out of the van and disappeared. Despair was creeping in and hope was quickly fading of ever finding Poppy, when suddenly a shout was heard 'We've found her!' Despair turned to joy and they were asked where she had been found. Rather sheepishly they told us that she had been asleep in the shoe cupboard all the time. When I had a dog I bought a dog basket, maybe they should try that. I don't think a shoe cupboard is really the right place to keep a dog!



Thursday night was advertised as a 'Spanish Night' in Woody's Bar and so we all trooped across to see what was what and who was who. Well all I can tell you is that the what – wasn't and the who had disappeared. Not a castanet, fandango or bullfighter in sight! Bit of a washout that was! Not to be outdone Lorraine, our Raffle Draw Queen soon got busy selling tickets. So the evening was totally lost.

Woody's Bar had a lovely marquee attached to it and we asked if we could hire it for Friday night for our punch bowl but unfortunately it was being refurbished for a wedding the following week and it wasn't for hire. We would have to have the soup kitchen and punch bowl outside but the weather, remember I mentioned it at the beginning of this report, well the wind decided to make an appearance. It was decided it was too cold for soup or indeed the punch bowl so it was cancelled. We will get this soup drunk at one rally or another, maybe third time lucky, at Morecambe. So it was shades of Moreton-in-Marsh and the rolls had to be sold to anyone Sheila could get hold of. So after Coronation Street we went to Woody's Bar for another get together.

Saturday saw most of us leave the site and go for some retail therapy. A lot of us found 'Down Town' a designer outlet and money was spent in abundance. Arriving back on site it was time to get ready for our evening meal pre booked 7 for 7.30.



Everyone arrived dressed in their finery ready for the banquet. We all entered the restaurant and the waitresses told Peter, our Chair, that the electricity had gone off and the meal would be delayed by about fifteen minutes. He made the announcement and no-one believed him. It took him five minutes to convince everyone that he was telling the truth. I am sure that some people thought he was telling one of his jokes. Well only ten minutes to go! We waited and waited and ten minutes passed and then we got an update –

maybe 20 minutes. No problem we said, we'll hand out some birthday presents. 'Up on your feet Geoff!' said Peter and Geoff Orchard thought How the devil did they find out, I thought I had kept it a secret. There are no secrets from your committee! Next up was Grace Hall both were celebrating their birthdays today and they received a potted plant each along with a signed card from all present.

'Meal ready?' 'Not yet,' said the waitresses. 'Not to worry', said Sheila 'we have another presentation.' With that Peter asked Peter & Jean to rise and they were presented with a little something to remember the rally by. (See Page 17. Ed.)

'Meal ready?' 'Er no', said the waitresses. Right – time for the raffle. We were all very grateful when Steve Joyce won a bag of chokkie biscuits and he went round and offered them to everyone whilst we waiting for the main course. With all the raffle prizes won and the mess cleaned up we turned to waitress and you've guessed it.



'Meal ready?' 'Sorry,' said the waitresses. 'Get the quiz Sheila' said Peter, so everyone armed with pens and those armed with pencils supplied by Janet marked the quiz papers and the winner and loser were each handed their prizes.

'Meal ready?' 'Yes, yes, yes' said the excited waitresses. A very loud cheer went up and we eventually sat down to a very nice meal. The management praised the club for their patience and politeness and was impressed with how we kept ourselves amused during the wait.



Sunday morning arrived and we all gathered under Peter's awning for coffee and biscuits. The snow held off long enough for us to finish, say our goodbyes and be on our way. An enjoyable rally, a lovely campsite and good company.

Birthdays

It has come to our notice that some member's birthdays are being overlooked so we wish to clarify the position and make it clear as to who will and will not get a card. As you can imagine it would cost the club a lot of money to post cards to everyone and so we have decided on what we hope will be a suitable solution.

Lorraine Pudner will be responsible for keeping a check on birthdays as and when they fall, she will have a cut off date of one week prior to and one week after the rally, covering three weekends, if your birthdays falls during this period **and you are attending the rally between**, you will be presented with a card. However, we recognize that some birthdays are 'special' such as '50th' '80th' etc. if this is the case you will get a card regardless of the time period above, **as long as you are attending the rally** in the month of which it falls, to this end it is the responsibility of the spouse or a friend to notify Lorraine of the particular age and date, she holds only information on date and month so would not know your age.

In the case of a member's illness a card will be sent to them on behalf of the club, would you please notify Lorraine or a committee member should you know of any such need. All telephone numbers are in your members list. It would also be helpful if you would bring Lorraine up to date with your birthdays in case she does not have them on record, if she doesn't find you first could you please call at her van at one of the rallies, it's the Wentworth with the 'Rattwieller' keeping guard.

We hope this arrangement is acceptable to all, please remember we are not all perfect, mistakes can happen and we have no wish to offend anyone, it it's your partner's birthday a quiet reminder to Lorraine or any committee member, if she is not available, would not go amiss.

Who is It?

1

He is Drew Barrymore's godfather

He has been knighted

His fortune is around 2.1 billion

He started the summer blockbuster trend with this 1875 \$100 million mega hit Jaws

He applied to USC Cinema School twice and was turned down both times.

2

She appeared on the first Playboy cover in 1953

She wore glasses

Appears on the record cover of the Beatles Sergeant Peppers Lonely Hearst Club Band

Changed her name from Norma Jean Mortenson

Was 1947 Miss California Artichoke Queen

3

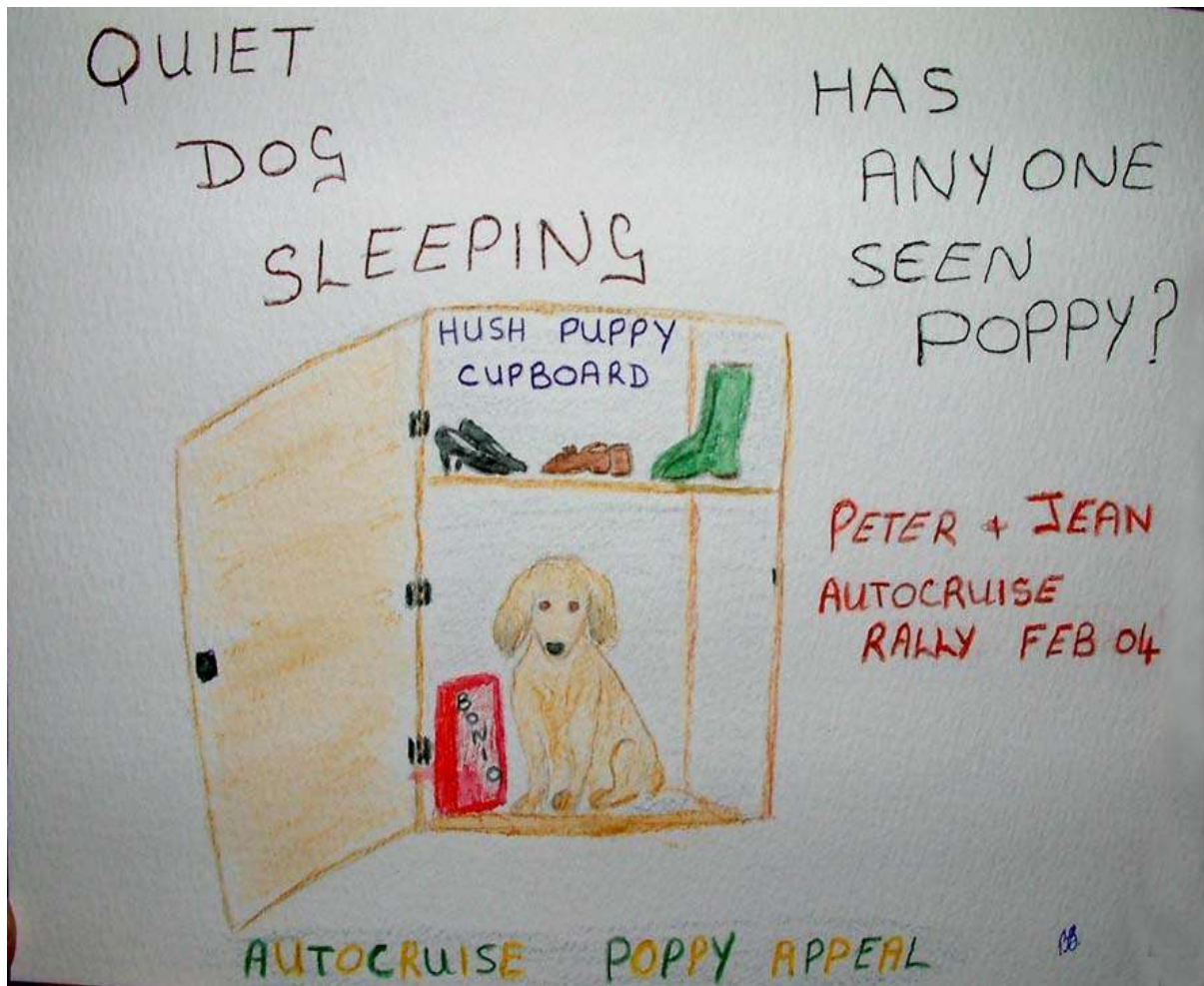
Her nicknames include Nonny and Mo

A university drop out from a dance degree

Twice married

She has an IQ of 140

Her albums have sold 153 million copies worldwide

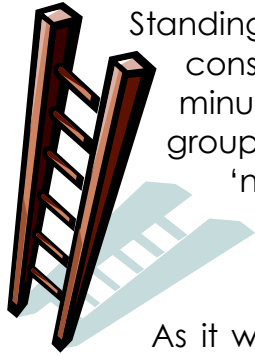


This was presented to Peter & Jean at the meal on Saturday night



What happens next? Or do all things come in three's?

Those who attended the Christmas Rally at Selby will already know the story of the ladder! For those who have missed the saga; a brief resume.



Standing one morning looking out of the window at home, I was conscious that the view wasn't quite right. Returning a few minutes later, I became aware of eight small holes, two neat groups of four, on the rear panel of our motor home: someone had 'nicked' the ladder over-night. Outside, closer inspection revealed a pile of eight 'self-tapping' screws on the rear bumper and definitely no ladder.

As it was raining my first concern was to dry and cover the holes; 'gaffer' tape to the rescue. Afterwards I rang the police, then contacted Autocruise to seek to purchase a replacement.

This was the state of affairs when we arrived at Selby to enjoy the Christmas Rally, which we certainly did.

With an appointment with Richard arranged for the Monday morning, we stayed on at the 'Ranch' site at Selby until late Sunday afternoon before moving down the M18 to the service area where M18 and M180 join. Here we stayed the night, to arrive at Autocruise early on Monday.

This time the top four screws were replaced by bolts through to alloy plates in the washroom, capped with plastic covers, as for awning mounts, and hidden behind the shower curtain. The bottom four screws were replaced by slightly thicker ones to ensure that they gripped.

Late on Monday afternoon, lighter of wallet after a visit to Christine to pay for the ladder and having viewed the new vehicles awaiting delivery, we set off for Burnley.

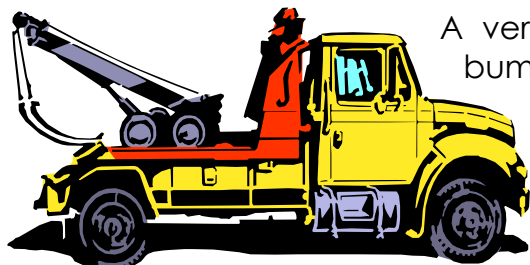
In rain which became increasingly heavy we drove through the Dearne Valley to the M1. Normally I would have taken the lazy route north to the M62 and west to the M66, but the rain and spray on the M1 was unbearable so we agreed to leave the motorway and go the scenic route via Flockton to Huddersfield to pick up the M62 above Elland. However, fate had other ideas in the form of a red fuel injection warning lamp on the dash-board and a silent engine as we coasted into Flockton.



Unable to re-start, except in 'limp home mode', we rang for assistance. Mayday/Green Flag were very efficient with the operator stating an arrival

time of 20 minutes and the contractor ringing back to confirm this shortly afterwards. Promptly the break-down truck arrived and when the driver failed to find the problem we limped into a side road to load up, whereupon the engine burst into life amidst a cloud of black smoke (not the correct emissions for a 'common rail' diesel!)

Un-daunted, although only half an hour from the end of his shift, the driver insisted on taking us back to Burnley in case the fault re-appeared.



A very wet hour later, after catching the rear bumper of the Pioneer on the ground and then having the winch jam, we were loaded up and on our way home at last. Julie was perched in a small seat on top of the engine in the break-down cab, which added to the sensations of travelling at 60 m.p.h. with 10 feet high motor home on the deck behind us.

Once home, with the bumper removed, the un-loading took 5 minutes, the engine started smoothly and the motor home was soon in its usual parking space.

A service and diagnostic check the following week revealed no problems, but we were reliably informed by Blackburn's Peugeot diesel specialist that minor problems are cleared from the computer memory after two successful re-starts, only major faults being retained. Now we drive with fingers and toes crossed waiting for number three event!

It's happened: on the way to Chester the Cruise Control failed on the M6 and chat with Harry from Adroit Services on diagnosis of a stretched bowden cable to pedal. This has proved to be the case as my can testify. Are we now safe to travel? We for the NEC and the Ancaster Rally. See you hope!!!!



Fairoaks for a short visit, would not re-set. A our return provided the the accelerator skinless knuckles hope so as we set off there folks, we

Barrie & Julie



Opening times



Open for browsing



Open for dreaming



Open for fun



Open for the kids



Open for leisure



Open for exploring

Opening time at Marquis is just that - the time when the door to every single motorhome on the forecourt is unlocked - and left unlocked until closing time. So you can browse at your leisure. Of course, if you'd like to speak to one of our knowledgeable motorhome experts, their (sales office) door is always open. But the choice is yours.

Take your time. Be relaxed. Enjoy the experience.

Larger maps are available by calling your local branch, or visit the website below which also features a full vehicle stocksearch from all our branches.

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Marquis Berkshire
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Berkshire RG20 8RU
01635 248 888

Marquis Gloucestershire
Mill Avon Holiday Park, Gloucester
Rd Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
GL20 5SW
01684 296 222

Marquis Lancashire
Riversway Leisure Village, Chain Caul
Rd Preston Docklands, Preston
Lancashire PR2 2XR
01772 731 313

Marquis Devon
Lee Mill, Ivybridge Devon PL21 9EE
01752 892 977

Marquis Hampshire
Winchester Road Lower Upham
Nr. Southampton
Hampshire SO32 1HA
01489 860 666

Marquis Surrey NEW ADDRESS
Vermeulen's Garden Centre
Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, Staines
Surrey TW19 6AE
01784 463 111

Marquis Dorset
41-45 Old Wareham Rd, Poole,
Dorset BH12 4DN
01202 738 777

Marquis Hertfordshire
Greenlawns Luton Road, Kinsbourne
Green Harpenden, Herts AL5 3NF
01582 460 583

Marquis Sussex
Eastbourne Road, Golden Cross
East Sussex BN27 4AN
01825 873 377

Over 400
new & used
vehicles in
stock

Mon to Fri 9am - 6pm
Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 5pm

Who is It?

4

He has had an estimated 350 of his works stolen
190 of his paintings have sold for over \$1,000,000

His middle name was Ruiz

He married a Russian ballerina

He said 'good artists borrow, great artists steal'

5

Born and raised in Stoke

His favourite food is a toasted tuna, onion and salad cream sandwich
He has a scar on his head from jumping in a fountain with no water in it

His favourite car is a Trabant

Before going solo he was in a band for 5 years



The beginning of the year saw the first anniversary of Heart of England motorhomes which is a family business run by Gary Rowlands and his wife Jayne. Not wishing to miss an opportunity to publicize the club Anne and I asked Gary whether we could mount some form of display to which he agreed. So having borrowed some display panels we hot footed it up to Weedon armed with crepe paper, selotape, string, balloons and publicity material.

After everything was in place we sat back and waited for the rush. After a while we had our first visitors (who were already members) Peter (remember the dog) Burraway and his wife Jean. (Read the February Rally report for explanation). They stopped and chatted for some time during which a trickle of visitors came and had a look around and then went away. We had already said that we would stay for a day. Unfortunately we were unable to sign up any new members so when 4-30 came we decided to go home but left the display up overnight.

Two days later we went back to dismantle everything and asked Gary if any of the membership forms had been taken after we had left, he seemed to think so. Asking about the overall response to the celebrations Gary said he was disappointed but accepted the fact it was the beginning of the year and too near Christmas.

Anyway at least we tried, one good thing was we were fed and watered well. So congratulations to everyone on a well deserved success.



Anne & John Purser

Something to think about

One evening a son was talking to his father about current events. He asked what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The dad replied, 'Well, let me think a minute...I was born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill. There was no radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball point pens. Man had not invented pantyhose, dishwasher, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, and he hadn't walked on the moon.

Your Mum and I got married – and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother, and every boy over 14 had a rifle that his dad taught him how to use and respect. And they went hunting and fishing together. Until I was 25, I called every man older than I, Sir – and after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, Sir. We were before computer dating, dual careers, daycare centres and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions. Serving your country was a privilege, living here was a bigger privilege. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yoghurt or guys wearing earrings. WE listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny and the President's speeches on our radio. I don't remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorset. If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk. The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam. Pizza Hut, McDonalds, and instant coffee were unheard of. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? Too bad, gas was 11 cents a gallon. In my day, 'grass' was mowed, 'coke' was a cold drink and 'pot' was something your mother cooked in, and 'rock music' was your grandmother's lullaby. 'Aids' were helpers in the Principal's office, 'chip' meant a piece of wood, 'hardware' was found in a hardware store and 'software' wasn't even a word.

No wonder people call us 'old and confused' and say there is a generation gap.

And I am only 51 years cold!

Some little known facts

It is impossible to lick your elbow

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair

Men can read smaller print than women, women can hear better

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse had both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Grand Christmas Raffle



TO BE DRAWN AT SELBY CHRISTMAS
RALLY
SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 2004

PRIZES

1st prize - £200

2nd prize - £100

3rd prize - £50

followed by (in no particular order)

Hand made Waxed Jacket

Iron and Ironing board

Stainless steel mugs and vacuum flask

DVD player

Spice rack

Ladies watch

2 free holidays at Don Amott's Lakeside for one week

Halogen heater

Waste water carrier and bag

Cool air dashboard fan

More prizes will be added to the list in the next newsletter
So keep buying those tickets

New Year In France



Eight of us travelled out to France to celebrate New Year twice. Once for French time and once English time. Ron and Joyce went in their van as they were staying on to visit Ron's daughter who now lives there. Janet, Peter, Lance, Sheila, Colin and Sue made up the convoy in their cars. We crossed the channel on 27th December and made our way to Rouen to spend the night in an hotel. Arriving late at night, the security guard opened the gates and we all drove into the car park, including Ron and Joyce who were sleeping in their van. Ron and

Joyce being very tired wished us all a goodnight, pulled down the blinds and retired for the night. The rest of us after depositing our overnight bags in our rooms met in Colin and Sue's room for a welcome gin and tonic. But woe, what was this, no glasses. Catastrophe! We went in search of the security guard who managed to produce some plastic glasses for our use. After a couple of drinks we said goodnight and went to bed. Next morning, after breakfast, it was noticed that Ron's brake lights weren't working so a quick repair was the order of the day. We left the hotel and soon found our way to the autoroute. It was here that we waved goodbye to Ron and Joyce and the rest of us hot footed it down to Castelsagrat to arrive there before the sun went down.

This is where the fun started! We were going to spend the holiday in the big house which had just had a new roof put on. Unfortunately someone had taken a very large piece out of the bedroom floor! Plan B had to be thought of and pretty quick! Colin and Sue suggested that Peter, Janet, Lance and I live in the small house with them taking up residence in their caravan parked in the barn. Cars duly emptied it was decided that we would take it in turns to use the one bedroom with the other couple sleeping in the living room. We had purchased Hi Rise blow up beds for the holiday and after the initial laughter at blowing up these beds we turned in for the night. The beds were **not** a success. I managed to use it for two days but gave up after that and used the bed settee from then on. Peter and Janet, made of better stuff, managed to use theirs for most of the holiday. I am pleased to say that on our return to Blighty I telephoned the company from whom we had purchased the beds and got our money refunded.

The following day we awaited the arrival of Ron and Joyce. We had all got a walkie talkie and Peter tried a number of times through the day to contact them. You can imagine his delight when he heard an answering voice 'Hello Peter' He came rushing into the house to tell us that he had gained contact with them and was going to walk up to the road to see if he could get a better reception. He again tried to contact them and the voice answered 'Hello Peter' at this we couldn't stop laughing and as Peter turned he saw Lance,



complete with walkie talkie in hand, bursting with laughter. Thankfully they did arrive later that day and the holiday was ready to start.

We had wonderful company, beautiful views, fantastic croissants which Colin and Sue collected every morning for us, and we met some of the local people. We ventured into the Castelsagrat and spent many an hour in the local restaurant/bar.



Peter and Lance (both retired), found gainful employment doing all sorts of electrical work and lights were fitted outside to light up the property. We had difficulty finding an outlet that sold outside light bulbs but after much searching, in lots of shops, we women came through and the lights were fastened up on the porch ready for the New Year celebrations. We had come armed with party poppers, crackers and fireworks. France had never seen the like before. Colin and Sue had arranged a meal for New Years Eve at the local restaurant, which

we found out later, was in actual fact closed that night. That's the French for you. Accommodating to the end.

As you can see a good time was had by all that night. We left the restaurant and drove back the two miles to Colin and Sue's and waited for the midnight hour. We set off half the fireworks at midnight, drank a toast to the New Year and then went back inside because it was so cold. At 1 am we were outside again letting off the rest of the fireworks to celebrate New Year with you lot. Mobile phones in hand we telephoned back home to everyone and anyone we could think of to wish them all the best.



We all had a wonderful time and I have already booked my holiday for this years celebrations. Roll on August when we will be back there once more. Anyone wishing to join us on the August rally please contact Lance Lennie, Rally Officer and you will be provided with a route map and countless other bits and pieces of information relating to the rally. We are intending to hire a coach and visit Lourdes for one of the days that we are there.

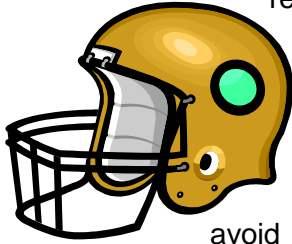
I wish it was August, as I am sitting here I can see out of the window and the snow is

falling, adding to the four inches we already have.

The Nude Housewife

A housewife washed her hair, put it in curlers, and then went to the basement laundry room with some dirty clothes. Soon she was waiting for one load to finish in the dryer as she put the second load into the washer.

At the last minute she decided that the dress she was wearing needed washing too. She removed it threw it into the washing machine, knowing she would get a change out of the dryer in a moment or two. Standing there in her shoes and brief undergarments, she noticed a cobweb in the corner. She decided to remove it. She didn't want to get her hair dirty, so she pulled a discarded football helmet over her curlers, and got ready to sweep down the cobweb. Just then the meter reader walked into the basement. The lady froze quietly in the corner, hoping to avoid his attention. She thought she had been successful, but as he departed he looked at her and said, 'I do hope your team wins.'



The Stolen Wallet

A New York City office worker is on his regular jogging route in Central Park early one morning before going to work when he is bumped rather hard by another runner. Instinctively, he reaches for his wallet and discovers that it is not in his pocket. Determined not to be a victim, the man races back to the supposed pickpocket, grabs him vigorously, shakes him and snarls through clenched teeth, 'Give me that wallet.' The other man, highly intimidated, hands over the wallet.

When the office worker arrives at work and has washed up and changed clothes, he is just telling his co-workers about the incident when his telephone rings. It's his wife on the phone, saying she hopes he can borrow money for lunch, because he had forgotten his wallet on the dresser that morning.



The Solid Cement Cadillac

A cement truck driver cut through his own neighbourhood one day whilst delivering a load of ready-mix, and he was surprised to see a new Cadillac convertible standing in his driveway. He parked his truck, sneaked up to the kitchen window, and spied his wife talking to a strange man. Suspecting that his wife was cheating on him, the driver backed his truck up to the Caddy and dumped the full load of wet concrete into it. The Cadillac sank slowly to the pavement.



That evening the man came home and found his wife hysterical, with the now solid Cadillac being towed away. Through her tears she explained how that morning the dealer had delivered the new car that she was going to give her husband for his birthday. She had been scrimping and saving for years to buy him his dream car.

The Tube on the Tube

A man working in a small office on an upper floor of a tower block was exasperated one day when the lone fluorescent tube in his light fixed burned out. Rather than bother the maintenance department who always gave him a hard time about anything he wanted fixing, he went out and bought a new tube and replaced the burned out one himself.



Then he had the problem of disposing of the old tube, it was too long to leave in the wastepaper bin and he didn't want his supervisor to find it. So he decided to carry it out of the building at finishing time and put it in a dustbin. He hadn't found a dustbin by the time he got to the tube station so holding the tube upright, hoping to disturb as few people as possible, boarded his train. As he rode, several people got on, saw no available seats, and grabbed hold of the tube, believing it to be a pole in the tube. When the man reached his stop, several other hands were still gripping the tube, so he shrugged, released his own grip and quietly left the train.

Why I Fired my Secretary

Two men sat at the club and one said, 'How is that gorgeous secretary of yours?'

'Oh I had to fire her.' 'Fire her?'

How come?'

'Well it all started a week last Thursday, on my 49th birthday. I was never so depressed.'

'What has that got to do with it?'



'Well I came down for breakfast and my wife never mentioned my birthday. A few minutes later, the kids came down and I was sure they would wish me a Happy Birthday, but not one word. As I say, I was most depressed, but when I arrived at the office, my secretary greeted me with Happy Birthday and I was glad that someone remembered.'

At noon she suggested that it was a beautiful day and that she would like to take me to lunch to a nice intimate place in the country. Well, it was nice and we enjoyed our lunch and a couple of Martinis. On the way back she said it was much too nice to return to the office and why didn't we go back to her place for another Martini. That also appealed to me and after a drink and a cigarette she asked to be excused while she went into the bedroom to change into something more comfortable.

A few minutes alter, the bedroom door opened and out came my secretary, my office staff, my wife and two kids with a birthday cake, all singing Happy Birthday.

And there I sat with nothing on but my socks.





You!

Jo Vaughan meets a couple who have no plans to swap their Autocruise Starfire and remain strong fans of the Yorkshire brand

It was during a canal boat holiday in France that Dave and Beryl Dalziel first considered motorcaravanning. "We had tied the up the boat in a quiet spot near to Auxerre when, at about 5.30pm, we saw motorhomes pouring into an adjacent parking area - which we later realised was an *aire-de-service*. It looked like such a good way of seeing France", Dave explained.

At the time, they were both still working, but the idea grew, and when Dave retired, they started browsing dealerships looking at different layouts. But it wasn't until Beryl retired that they started to get serious, eventually visiting the Earls Court show four years ago. Their intention was to look at potential layouts for a secondhand buy, but they kept ending up back at the Autocruise

stand, having been impressed by the Starfire. It became clear that this was the motorhome that they really wanted. Much pondering went on, and in the end they went to their nearest Marquis branch and signed on the dotted line.

The Starfire fitted all their requirements. They needed something small enough to both fit on their driveway and to take shopping, but a good bathroom was also an important priority. Dave and Beryl take their sporting activities seriously, both having run numerous marathons in their time, and both being keen cyclists. Dave also belongs to a local running club, and takes part in various competitions, including the Roadrace Grand Prix in Sussex. "You have to do eight out of the 16 races, scoring points for each one - so the camper is really useful for that." It enables him to take a shower after all that strenuous exertion, and means that they no longer have to rely on Travel Lodges for accommodation.

The camper isn't only used for their sporting endeavours, however. They are avid members of The Autocruisers (the Autocruise owners' club), and, when I caught up with them at the Caravan Club's Ferry Meadows site, they were on their way to the annual Christmas Rally at Selby. "We're really looking forward to it", they enthused. "We hold a buffet supper on the Friday night and then, on Saturday, we'll make a visit to a factory outlet before going to the evening dinner-dance. Then we have a coffee morning on Sunday, where we draw the raffle. It should be really riotous!" It is through the club that the couple have got to know the personalities at Autocruise too, especially as they always attend the company's yearly bash at the factory. "It is the main reason why, if we changed our 'van,

we would stick with Autocruise", Dave explained. "Whistle and they'd do anything for you. The only real problem we've had is a slight crack around the cab, but they sorted it out immediately."

The Dalziels also enjoy heading off across the channel for longer trips, taking their little dog with them - thanks to the Passport for Pets scheme. "The scheme took a lot of research - we had to think about it about seven months in advance - but in the end it was very easy. Just before heading home on our last trip, we stayed on a site at St Quentin. The site owner suggested a local vet to complete the paperwork. They're very keyed up to it all now", Dave said. "The dog did pick up a tummy bug during the trip, though, so you do have to be careful. But we're taking him abroad again this winter, so it hasn't put us off."

This out-of-season trip will be an eight-week adventure in search of some winter sun, having had a similar and successful six-week holiday to Spain last year. Also, last summer they headed through the Dolomites to Switzerland and Austria. Many happy times are also spent touring the UK, which is something the couple never had the opportunity to do before buying their motorhome. Consequently, their 'van sees plenty of action. In fact, if they lumped all their trips together, they reckon to spend four months a year in the Starfire. That's a lot of time in such a compact motorhome, although they are still pleased with it and don't plan to change in the near future. "We've looked at the new Starfire, which has seen all the problems that owners complained about in the original version ironed out, but we over-spent buying this 'van, and it does all we need - that's what's important."

Words Women Use

FINE

This is the word women use to end an argument when they feel they are right and you need to shut up. Never use 'fine' to describe how a moan looks – this will cause you to have one of those arguments

FIVE MINUTES

This is half an hour. It is equivalent to the five minutes that your football game is going to last before you take out the rubbish, so it's an even trade.

NOTHING

This means 'something' and you should be on your toes. 'Nothing' is usually used to describe the feeling a woman has of wanting to turn you inside out, upside down and backwards. 'Nothing' usually signifies an argument will last 'Five Minutes' and end with 'Fine'

GO AHEAD (with raised eyebrows)

This is a dare. One that will result in a woman getting upset over 'Nothing' and will end with the word 'Fine'

GO AHEAD (Normal eyebrows)

This means 'I give up' or 'do you what you want because I don't care' You will get a 'Raised Eyebrows Go Ahead' in just a few minutes, followed by 'Nothing' and 'Fine' and she will talk to you in about 'Five Minutes' when she cools off.

LOUD SIGH

This is not actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A 'Loud Sigh' means she thinks you are an idiot at that moment, and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you 'Nothing'

SOFT SIGH

Again, not a word, but a non-verbal statement. 'Soft Sigh' mean that she is content. Your best bet is not to move or breathe, and she will stay content

THAT'S OKAY

This one of the most dangerous statements that a woman can make to a man. 'That's OK' means that she want to think long and hard before paying you back for whatever it is that you have done. 'That's OK' is often used with the word 'Fine' and in conjunction with a 'Raised Eyebrow'

GO AHEAD!

At some point in the near future, you are going to be in some mighty big trouble

PLEASE DO

This is not a statement, it is an offer. A woman is giving you the chance to come up with whatever excuse or reason you have for doing whatever it is that you have done. You have a fair chance with the truth, so be careful and you shouldn't get a 'That's Ok'

THANKS

A WOMAN IS THANKING YOU. Do not faint. Just say you're welcome

THANKS A LOT

This is much different from 'Thanks' A woman will say 'Thanks a Lot' when she is really ticked off at you. It signifies that you have offended her in some callous way, and will be followed by the 'Loud Sigh' Be careful not to ask what is wrong after the 'Loud Sigh' as she will only tell you 'Nothing'

FOR SALE
AUTOCRUISE VALENTINE

Sorry to part with our Valentine but happy to pass on to a good home!

£18750. Autocruise Valentine Peugeot 1.9TD. March 1999 2+2 Berth, 19500 miles, MOT until March 05, full service history, Autocruise Habitat serviced Feb 04, Excellent condition throughout. Oven, hob, 3 way fridge, toilet, shower, water heater, hot air heating, aerial and booster, swivel captain chairs plus silverscreen, levellers, mains electric lead and adapters, gas bottles, rear stand alone awning, Fiamma double bike rack. Custom fitted side mirrors, rear jack stabilisers and more.

One previous owner. Must be seen, excellent value. South London.

Telephone Mike on **07967 603 390**

e-mail mdlwry2002@yahoo.co.uk





A Cautionary Tale from Mike Bedwell

When renewing my motorhome insurance a couple of years ago, all companies insisted a Thatcham immobiliser had to be fitted, my fuel cut off switch was not acceptable! So for £160 I had one fitted.

Recently my house was burgled solely with the intent of stealing my motorhome, as with the alarm ringing they went straight to the front door where the van keys hang. They then smashed the motorhome nearside door window, wrenched open the door tearing out the door grip which was chained to the offside door, and started the motorhome with the ignition key and rove off. The cut off switch operated after two hundred yards, and the vehicle was abandoned, the driver taking the key. The garage that attended hot wired the ignition and drove it away for repair. So what good was my Thatcham immobiliser?

There is a lesson here, always keep your motorhome keys hidden!

I spoke to Mike after receiving his letter telling us about the above. He also told me that he had undergone a triple by pass earlier this year. I am happy to say that he has fully recovered and has been discharged from the hospital. Mike & Chris are due to leave for Spain on 1st April and we wish you both well. I hope this gets to you before you go so you have something to read en route to your place in the sun.

Who is It?

6

He was expelled from school aged 5, for misbehaving
Without glasses he was legally blind
His first instrument was an accordion
He was dyslexic
He drank 20-30 cups of tea a day

Richard & Anna's Wedding

Many of you know Richard Bentley and he is getting married in July. We are holding a 'Wedding Rally' when the happy couple will be married Autocruisers style by Peter Lockwood, our Chair. A number of the committee have been approached by members enquiring about wedding presents. It has been decided that a wedding gift will be purchased from the membership. Would anyone who would like to contribute to this gift please send a cheque made payable, (as always), to The Autocruisers addressed to The Rally Officer, 46 Brookside, Dudley Cramlington Northumberland NE23 7DL, to arrive no later than 11th May. A decision will be made at the May Rally in Bourton on the Water as to what will be purchased with the money collected.

MEMBERS PAGE

FOR SALE

12 Inch Television mains/battery £100
Aiwa Hi Fi unit with turntable £75

Please contact Dave & Sylvia Barron 01706 658766

+++++++

Cabanon utility tent 6" x 6" x 6" very easy to put up.
fairly light weight £40 ono. (Purchase price new £125)

Contact Beryl & David Brooks for more details on 01525 217275



Anyone wishing to advertise in the newsletter please contact
Sheila Lennie or any member of the committee
Please write clearly what the item is and the amount you are requesting.

Who Is It? – Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Steven Spielberg | 2. Marilyn Monroe | 3. Madonna |
| 4. Pablo Picasso | 5. Robbie Williams | 6. John Lennon |

That's it folks until the next one